

we found many tracks of Buffalo & Deer; the Mountain Goat and Sheep are likewise numerous, our Hunter killed two of each kind say of the Goats & Sheep; they were in good condition but tough and not well flavoured tasting strongly of Musk and so much alike that my palate could not distinguish the one from the other . . .

15th Left our Encampment after Breakfast; the road hilly craggy & rugged and in many places dangerous but the Horses are accustomed to it and rarely make a false step; one of them however, my wardrobe forming part of his Load Slipped from the bank of the River and was swept down by the current some Hundred Yards but saved by the activity of his Driver . . . as we proceed the Road gets worse and the Mountains rise perpendicular to a prodigious height; the scenery Wild & Majestic beyond description; the track is in many places nearly impassable and it appears extra-ordinary how any human being should have stumbled on a pass through such a formidable barrier as we are now scaling and which nature seems to have placed here for the purpose of interditing all communication between the East and West sides of the Continent. We forded the River about a Doz times to Day and put up at Campement Fusel near the height of Land.

Sunday October 17th . . . At the very top of the pass or height of Land is a small circular Lake or Basin of Water which empties itself in opposite directions and may be said to be the source of the Columbia & Athabasca Rivers as it bestows its favors on both these prodigious Streams, the former falling into the Pacific at Lat. 46 1/2 north and the latter after passing through Athabasca & Great Slave Lakes falling into the Frozen Ocean at about 69 North Lat. That this basin should send its Waters to each side of the Continent and give birth to two of the principal Rivers in North America is no less strange than true both the Dr & myself having examined the currents flowing from it east & West and the circumstance appearing remarkable I thought it should be honored by a dis-tinguishing title and it was forthwith named the "Committee's Punch Bowl". From hence the descent is extremely rapid down the West side, in many places nearly perpendicular and the changes of